

# Appendix A

## Thermal Conversion Factors

### Using Thermal Conversion Factors

The thermal conversion factors presented in the following six tables can be used to estimate the heat content in British thermal units (Btu) of a given amount of energy measured in physical units, such as barrels or cubic feet. For example, 10 barrels of asphalt has a heat content of approximately 66.36 million Btu (10 barrels x 6.636 million Btu per barrel = 66.36 million Btu).

In general, the annual thermal conversion factors presented in Tables A2 through A6 are computed from final annual data. However, if the current year's final data are not available in time for publication, thermal conversion factors for the current year are computed from the best available data and are labeled "preliminary." Usually, the previous year's factor is used as the preliminary value until data become available to calculate the factor appropriate to the year. The source of each factor is described in the section entitled "Thermal Conversion Factor Source Documentation," which follows Table A6 in this appendix.

Thermal conversion factors for hydrocarbon mixes are weighted averages of the thermal conversion factors for each hydrocarbon included in the mix. For example, in calculating the thermal conversion factor for a 60-40 butane-propane mixture, the thermal conversion factor for butane is weighted 1.5 times the thermal conversion factor for propane.

More information about British thermal units (the standardized unit of measure for energy) can be found in the Glossary.

**Table A1. Approximate Heat Content of Petroleum Products**  
(Million Btu per Barrel)

Energy Source	Heat Content
Asphalt	6.636
Aviation Gasoline	5.048
Butane	4.326
Butane-Propane Mixture (60 percent-40 percent)	4.130
Distillate Fuel Oil	5.825
Ethane	3.082
Ethane-Propane Mixture (70 percent-30 percent)	3.308
Isobutane	3.974
Jet Fuel, Kerosene-Type	5.670
Jet Fuel, Naphtha-Type	5.355
Kerosene	5.670
Lubricants	6.065
Motor Gasoline, Conventional	5.253
Motor Gasoline, Oxygenated	5.150
Motor Gasoline, Reformulated	5.150
Natural Gasoline	4.620
Pentanes Plus	4.620
Petrochemical Feedstocks	
Naphtha less than 401° F	5.248
Other Oils equal to or greater than 401° F	5.825
Still Gas	6.000
Petroleum Coke	6.024
Plant Condensate	5.418
Propane	3.836
Residual Fuel Oil	6.287
Road Oil	6.636
Special Naphthas	5.248
Still Gas	6.000
Unfinished Oils	5.825
Unfractionated Stream	5.418
Waxes	5.537
Miscellaneous	5.796

Source: See "Thermal Conversion Factor Source Documentation," which follows Table A6.